

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 1999-345-C - ORDER NO. 1999-717
NOVEMBER 4, 1999

IN RE: Notification of BellSouth Telecommunications,) ORDER DENYING
Inc. of its Intent to Elect to have Rates, Terms,) RECONSIDERATION
and Conditions for its Services Regulated under) AND CLARIFICATION
the Alternative Form of Regulation.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion for Reconsideration and/or Clarification of MCI WorldCom (MCI) of our Order No. 1999-578, which dismissed all Petitions and Complaints in reference to BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s (BellSouth's) election to be governed by an alternative regulation plan, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-576 (Supp. 1998).

That Order held that since the alternative regulation plan that BellSouth elected was not in effect when MCI's Petition was filed, the Petition was premature. Further, the Petition was held to be premature because of the fact that no "guidelines" had been filed pursuant to the statutory scheme. The Commission also held that a separate Docket, Docket No. 1999-178-C, had been established to consider similar issues concerning overearnings, for which oral arguments have been set, a docket in which MCI is an intervenor. Moreover, the Commission has by separate order required guidelines to be filed by BellSouth on November 12, 1999.

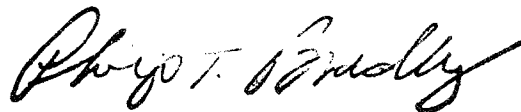
Nonetheless, MCI moves for clarification as to several issues. First, MCI seeks clarification as to what a “plan” is under Section 58-9-576, how it is to be filed and approved, and when MCI may refile its Petition or file an appropriate pleading. The answers to these questions lie in the statutory language found in Section 58-9-576(B)(2), (3), (4), (5), and (6).

Lastly, MCI states that the Commission retains jurisdiction to conduct a specific earnings review even after the thirty (30) day notice of alternative regulation given by BellSouth, and that such a review should take place before alternative regulation is allowed to take effect. This Commission would again note that MCI is an intervenor in the Commission’s docket which is pending to consider the Consumer Advocate’s Petition for a review of BellSouth’s earnings for 1996, 1997, and 1998.

Accordingly, the Motion for Reconsideration is denied, and clarification is denied, except as described above.

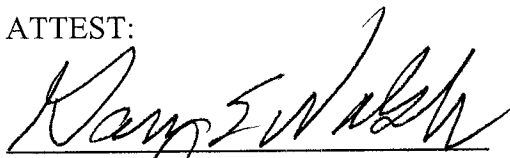
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)